

DECLASSIFIED
Authority <u>NLE 2012-21 #5</u>
By <u>MLK</u> NLDDE Date <u>5/29/12</u>

SECURITY INFORMATION  
SECRET

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
WASHINGTON

Copied in  
PSB:E/E

July 27, 1953

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. George Morgan,  
Psychological Strategy Board.

SUBJECT: New York City Center Ballet Tour of  
Europe and Offer to Appear in Moscow

We would like to have the following item included on the FSB agenda this Wednesday:

Background

There are indications that the Soviet Government may be planning to send the Russian State Ballet to Paris and may be considering proposing that this ballet visit the United States this winter. The New York City Center Ballet has scheduled a European tour late this summer with all expenses in Europe paid by a number of cities requesting its appearance. The City Center Ballet needs approximately \$15,000 to help defray the cost of trans-Atlantic transportation.

Discussion

The City Center Ballet is distinctively American in that it makes use of new techniques and new American music. Its highly successful appearance in Paris last year is responsible for its invitation to tour Europe with expenses guaranteed.

Proposal

1. That, rather than wait to see whether Moscow makes an offer to send its ballet to New York and decide then what to do, we take the initiative, asking the City Center to offer a performance in Moscow.
2. That CIA covertly subsidize the City Center's travel to and from Europe.

Rejection by the Soviets of the offer would serve to dramatize the spurious character of the Soviet peace offensive, whereas acceptance of the offer would help to expose internal Soviet propaganda that seeks to convince the Russian people of American cultural barbarism.

s/ Walter K. Schwinn

Walter K. Schwinn  
Special Assistant  
to the Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs